



RESOLUTION NO. 38649

1 BY REQUEST OF COUNCIL MEMBER THOMS

2 A RESOLUTION acknowledging the life, work, and lasting legacy of former
3 Washington State Governor William Booth Gardner.

4 WHEREAS our nation and our state have lost an outstanding public servant,
5 a distinguished leader, and a man of great warmth and compassion with the
6 passing this week of the 19th governor of Washington, William Booth Gardner, and
7

8 WHEREAS, in adhering to the honorable principles that guided him
9 throughout his life, William Booth Gardner fashioned an exemplary record of
10 accomplishment that should serve as an inspiration to us all, and

11 WHEREAS his stature as a community leader, governor, and crusader for
12 human dignity will surely grow in the years to come, and

13 WHEREAS William Booth Gardner was born in Tacoma on August 21,
14 1936, and enrolled at the University of Washington after high school, and

15 WHEREAS, while an undergraduate, he coached and tutored
16 underprivileged children at parks and recreation centers in Seattle, where he said,
17 "I realized I could make a difference in people's lives," a lesson he was to keep
18 with him throughout his career, and
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20 WHEREAS he earned a bachelor's degree in business administration at the
21 University of Washington and a master's degree in business administration at
22 Harvard University, and
23

24 WHEREAS William Booth Gardner served as the Director of the School of
25 Business and Economics at the University of Puget Sound from 1967-1972, and
26



was beloved by students, faculty, and staff members as a teacher, advisor, mentor
and friend while there, and

WHEREAS, in 1970, William Booth Gardner was elected to the Washington
State Senate from Pierce County, and

WHEREAS, after leaving public service to help manage his family's
extensive business interests, he returned in 1981 when he was elected as the first
Pierce County Executive, and

WHEREAS he cleaned up a corruption-riddled county government and also
set its fiscal house in order, turning a budget deficit into a surplus, and

WHEREAS William Booth Gardner – running as “Booth Who?” – challenged
the incumbent governor in the 1984 election and won, and

WHEREAS he served two terms as governor and established an
outstanding record in office, and

WHEREAS he was a tireless advocate for public education, including early
childhood education, and helped establish the Running Start program for high
school students to earn college credits, and

WHEREAS he was a leader in health reform and successfully advocated for
creation of the state Basic Health Plan, and

WHEREAS he cherished our state's natural beauty and moved to protect
the waters of Puget Sound from pollution and our rural areas from uncontrolled
development, and worked to limit contamination from the Hanford nuclear site, and

WHEREAS William Booth Gardner served as a true champion of civil rights,
ordering an end to discrimination on the basis of sexual preference in state



employment and acting to boost the pay of thousands of women workers in state government who were victims of salary-discrimination, and

WHEREAS, after completing his terms as governor, William Booth Gardner served his nation as presidential ambassador to an international trade organization in Geneva, Switzerland, and

WHEREAS, after he was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, he led the successful 2008 initiative drive for a "Death with Dignity" assisted-suicide law, even though it would not apply to him, and

WHEREAS he was frugal in his personal life, but gave generously to charities that aided disadvantaged youth and alcohol-dependent men and women, and

WHEREAS he loved Frisko Freeze in Tacoma and other fast-food outlets, but was also passionate about physical fitness, and

WHEREAS William Booth Gardner was known for his sly sense of humor, gregarious nature, optimism and idealism, and had an appeal that his hometown newspaper described as "cuddly"; Now, Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TACOMA:

That the City Council hereby concurs with the House of Representatives of the state of Washington, and the Senate, that the life, work, and lasting legacy of former Washington State Governor William Booth Gardner be celebrated.



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be immediately
transmitted by the City Clerk to the family of William Booth Gardner and to the
University of Washington.


Adopted _____

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

Approved as to form:



City Attorney